

**From:** bob  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 10:38am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To Whom It May Concern,

I feel that the current settlements proposed to remedy the Microsoft Anti-trust settlement are not going far enough.

What essentially is happening is that they are not even receiving a slap on the wrist for criminal action.

For Microsoft to make suggestions to settle the case would not be prudent. Microsoft has shown from its past actions that it cannot be trusted.

Microsoft has ZERO accountability in their guarantee of software quality. This would not be as great of an issue if their software was not in virtually every home and office desktop. Unfortunately, their stronghold on computers available for us to purchase at the local store virtually forces us to buy their products. If MS Windows crashes, and I lose irreplaceable work worth money, can't Microsoft be liable for these damages? If virtually everybody drove Ford cars with Firestone tires, and those cars crashed at a rate of twice a day, I am sure that Ford and/or Firestone would be held accountable. To make matters worse, it seems as if a substantial part of their revenue comes from the "support" of their products.

I am not asking for Microsoft to open their source code, or anything of the like. None of that will not do us any good. Plenty of good software is already written by non-Microsoft companies and individuals. I am asking that Microsoft be watched, or even regulated as any large company/utility is. I am asking that there be a Federal Department overseeing single companies with more than 50% market share of any single software arena. This can range from Operating Systems, to Office Productivity suites. If the same company has the greatest market share in more than one category, then they should be watched on both fronts by separate entities.

Please ensure that a settlement not only punishes Microsoft for their anti-competitive behavior, but

also prevents FUTURE anti-competitive infractions. Microsoft can be seen rearing a bad seed: they will continually test their limits with authorities, and if their acts go unpunished by those in charge, they will continue to act the way they have, only this time they will push their limits even more.

Please keep in mind, Microsoft did not become #1 because of their "quality software." they became #1 by ignorance, intimidation, and brute force. America's technological future is at stake.

Sincerely,  
Bob Alvarez  
Software Consultant/Human Factors Engineer  
Chicago, IL

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